

# ANC Residential Sound Insulation Program

## Q&A

**Why should the Airport provide new windows and doors for residents within the 65 dB DNL contour? What about other people who can hear airport noise from planes flying overhead?**

The objective of the Sound Insulation Program is to reduce noise impacts on Anchorage residents living in areas with significant airport noise levels. This is done through sound insulation of existing homes within the 65 dB DNL contours. A federal interagency committee has studied airport noise impacts and has found that areas within the 65 dB DNL contour are not compatible for residential use unless the homes can be treated to reduce the interior noise levels. This does not mean that everyone within the 65 dB DNL contour feels negatively affected by airport noise, or that there are not other people outside the 65 dB DNL bothered by airport noise. However, the federal interagency committee has confirmed time after time that the 65 dB DNL is the most appropriate noise metric to use for looking at adverse noise impacts from airports. It is ANC's responsibility to take reasonable actions to address significant noise impacts from airport operations and ANC committed to this during the development of the Airport's Noise Compatibility Program in the late 1990s.

**Isn't this a waste of taxpayer money?**

ANC's Sound Insulation Program is funded by the Federal Aviation Trust Fund. The FAA collects money on every passenger ticket and cargo waybill, and from a tax on the sale of aviation fuel. This money is used to fund airport development, including noise mitigation efforts. So, the people using aircraft and airports pay for airport noise programs. Congress has set aside 34% of the discretionary portion of the Trust for noise mitigation measures. This money cannot be used for anything else! So, if ANC doesn't use

some of it to insulate homes in Anchorage, 34% of the funds received from Alaska aviation operations will be spent insulating homes in Seattle or elsewhere. With ANC's sound insulation program, millions of dollars will be put into construction jobs and home improvements in Anchorage, and Anchorage area contractors will learn how to incorporate noise attenuation into new homes that may be built near the airport.

**Why do people who buy houses near the Airport complain about noise? Why don't people building homes near the airport make sure they are quiet?**

The Airport's Noise Compatibility Program recommends better real estate disclosure to make sure that people buying houses do know if these homes are in the noise contours. It also recommends land use and building code measures to ensure new homes built near the airport address interior noise levels. Unfortunately, ANC does not regulate land use off Airport property. ANC is working with the Real Estate community and the Municipality of Anchorage to try to implement these measures to reduce noise impacts on the surrounding community to the greatest extent possible.

***ANC has a comprehensive Noise Compatibility Program that includes measures to reduce noise generated at the Airport and to mitigate impacts off airport when possible and reasonable. Airport noise is a community issue though, and the community, the aviation industry, the Municipality and the Airport all need to work together to address airport noise impacts in a manner that allows continued development of this important economic and transportation resource and also minimizes noise impacts on our community.***